



"...An extraordinarily important movie..."
Nat Hentoff, Village Voice

"...A ripe eye-ful and ear-ful of personal testimonies and interview that brooks no nonsense..."
Howard Thompson, New York Times

"The film has a well-paced rhythm, good graphics and photography, engaging music and a touch of humor that holds it all together and makes it work."
Beverly Koch, San Francisco Chronicle

Winner, First Prize Inter-Film Festival, Berlin

Produced by Newsreel (San Francisco Newsreel)
1971, 25 minutes, B&W, English
Original Format: 16mm print
Screening Format Available: DigiBetacamSP and DVD

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Trailer: vimeo.com/224683674
Website: tw.org/catalog/pages/cpage.aspx?rec=895&card=price
Educational Streaming: tw.tugg.com/titles/the-womans-film

THE WOMAN'S FILM (NEWSREEL #55)

Produced collectively by women, this documentary is a valuable historical document of the origins of the modern women's movement in the United States. The film delves into the lives of ordinary women from different races, educational levels and class. Filmed mostly in small consciousness-raising groups, from which the women's movement grew, the women talk about the daily realities of their lives as wives, home-makers, and workers. They speak, sometimes with hesitancy, often with passion, about the oppression of women as they see it.

Third World Newsreel's historical Newsreel collection provides contemporary audiences with a vast archive of political documentary films chronicling the social movements of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Thanks to the generous contributions of NYWIFT's Women's Film Preservation Fund THE WOMAN'S FILM has been newly preserved and is now available for purchase, rental and educational streaming.

REVIEWS

"San Francisco Newsreel's film THE WOMAN'S FILM represented the perspective of a range of working-class women on how their everyday experience gave rise to an awareness of oppression. THE WOMAN'S FILM, made primarily by women members of the group, stood out as one of the first feminist documentaries of the postwar era. Its series of interviews coupled with scenes of each participant's everyday life confirmed women as filmmakers and as political activists as well as the proper subjects of documentary representations." - Bill Nichols, Introduction to Documentary

"There's Melva, Florence, Vonda and Vivian... all making their film debut... all poor white, Black and Chicano women who went before the Newsreel camera and spoke from the gut about problems it seems they've always had.... A hard-hitting documentary" - Women's Wear Daily

*"What we see is not only natural and spontaneous -- it is thoughtful and beautiful. It is a film which immediately evokes the sights and sounds and smells of working class kitchens, neighborhood streets, local supermarkets, factories, cramped living rooms, dinners cooking, diaper-washing, house cleaning, and all the other "points of production" and battle-fronts where working class women in America daily confront the realities of their oppression. It is... a supremely optimistic statement, showing the sinews of struggle and capturing the essential energy and collective spirit of all working people--and especially that advanced consciousness which working class women bring to the common struggle."
Irwin Silber, Guardian*

"Finally, a film by, about and for women, a film that is really about women's liberation in the truest and most far-reaching sense of the world... The women interviewed are not the women you will see as a rule, in a women's liberation demonstration... they are poor and working class women with problems that have to do with their everyday existences... The most refreshing thing about these women is that their anger is interlaced with good humor that comes from strength in the face of myriad problems... THE WOMAN'S FILM speaks in clear and unmistakable words from real people about what's wrong with the system and how women are especially victimized by the class, racial, and sexual inequality. The anger of THE WOMAN'S FILM is positive, even optimistic. These beautiful, strong sisters are ready to struggle for a better world for themselves and their children... and seeing and hearing them, it's impossible to think they can lose." - Ruth McCormick, Cineaste